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EAST - WEST GERMANY: Dispute over two political issues still blocks completion of the political treaty which Chancellor Brandt hopes will give him a late election boost.

At the sessions on 24-26 October, East German negotiator Kohl continued to reject West German insistence on references to common German nationhood and the absence of a World War II peace treaty. At the same time, however, the two delegations made progress on ancillary questions. A West German official, commenting on the sessions, concluded that aside from the two political questions, the treaty draft is now "more or less" complete. Leaders in Bonn are increasingly doubtful that Pankow will give in on the two issues. They regard the meetings this week as the last opportunity before the parliamentary election on 19 November.

Some officials believe that Bonn could accept the treaty on East German terms if the three Western Allies succeed in obtaining Soviet reaffirmation of these disputed issues in the Four Power statement currently being negotiated as a basis for sponsoring entry of both German states into the UN. In the Four Power talks last week, however, Soviet Ambassador Yefremov continued to reject Western proposals for the kind of references that Bonn wants.

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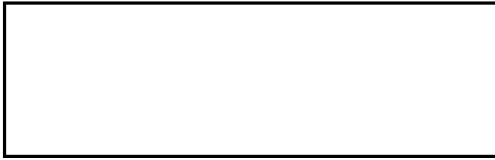
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